



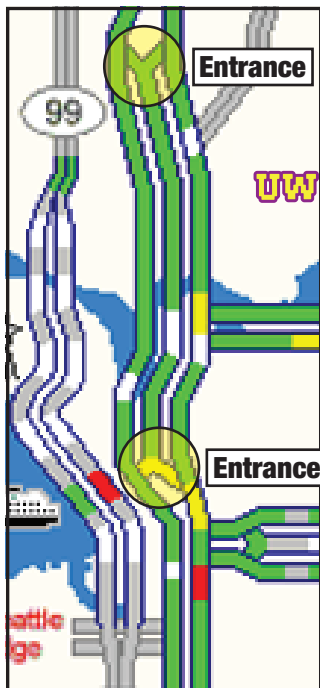
I-5 Express Lane Automation

May 2011



We are automating the system that closes gates and changes signs that lead to and from the I-5 express lanes. With automation, we will cut the total closure time from 45 minutes to 15 minutes. This extra 30 minutes will allow an extra 650 vehicles to use the express lanes mid-day every day and reduce backups on mainline I-5 through Seattle.

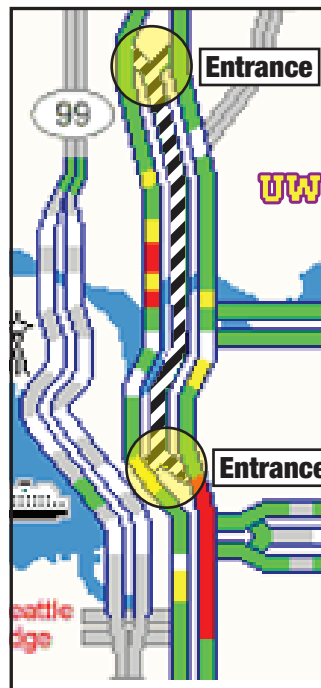
What happens when the I-5 express lanes are closed



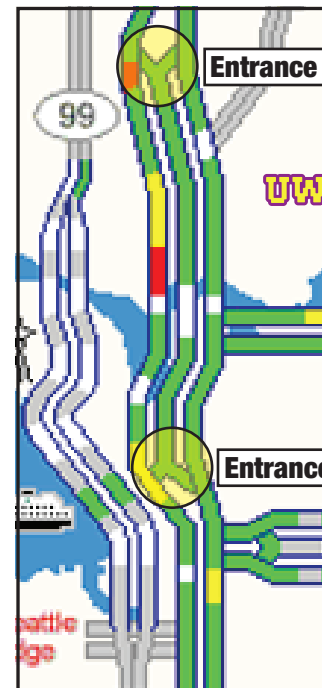
11:00am
I-5 express lanes southbound
No congestion southbound
Congestion builds northbound



11:30am
I-5 express lanes closed
Congestion builds in both directions



11:50am
I-5 express lanes closed for 40 minutes
Congestion grows in both directions



12:20pm
I-5 express lanes northbound
No congestion northbound
Congestion builds southbound

When the lanes are closed to ALL traffic, congestion builds in BOTH directions of I-5 through Seattle.

When the lanes are open, we see significant congestion relief in one direction. By reducing the time the lanes are closed to all traffic, drivers in both directions will see faster trips.

How will automation change the existing system?

A traffic engineer based in the Shoreline operations center will use the new system to illuminate all “closed” signs then automatically close the gates. The engineer will use new cameras to review the lanes and all ramps.



The new automation gives traffic engineers more flexibility to complete an unexpected express lane switch. This could be used during significant collisions or catastrophic emergencies.

Title VI Notice to Public

It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For Title VI complaint forms and advice, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator, George Laue at (509) 324-6018.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodations may request written materials in alternate formats, sign language interpreters, physical accessibility accommodations, or other reasonable accommodations by contacting the event sponsor (enter name of event sponsor and phone number), by (insert date-usually two weeks advance notice). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the event sponsor through the Washington Relay Service at 7-1-1.



When lanes and ramps are clear, a WSDOT maintenance worker will drive the length of the lanes for a final safety check and give the okay to open the lanes in the opposite direction.
Total time: 15 minutes.

By the numbers:

- New gates: 7
- Total number of gates: 30
- New signs: 13
- New cameras: 21
- Length of express lanes: five miles
- Construction cost: \$3.7 million Elcon Corporation

Timeline:

- Construction begins: June 2011
- Automation begins: Summer 2012

Project limits



More information:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/i5/expresslaneautomation/

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Current express lane schedule

- Monday-Friday
Southbound - 5 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Northbound - Noon to 11 p.m.
Closed: 11:00 p.m. - 5 a.m.
- Saturday & Sunday
Southbound - 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Northbound - 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.
Closed: 11:00 p.m. - 7 a.m.